

Non-Fiction Reading Assignment

**“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
(Dr. Seuss)**

This semester, you must read a non-fiction book outside of our normal class reading of essays and novels.

Due next class: Your choice of book.

If you choose a book and cannot check out a copy from the library or do not wish to purchase one, I will make the book part of the class’s lending library. You must submit the title to me however so that I can make it available to you. Additionally, because of the wide number of titles available, no more than three students in all of my classes may choose the same book.

This assignment will be **DUE in fourth quarter**. However, you should begin reading as soon as I have approved your selection. I will do a reading check in a few weeks.

You should speak with your parents or caregivers about your reading selection. Some of the books on this list may not be within the scope of the values in some homes, and if this is a concern, a talk will prevent any future misunderstanding. Check out book descriptions and summaries on Amazon and free book reviews from the New York Times archive.

Requirements:

Choose one non-fiction book from the chart on the reverse side of these instructions. **Read the book.**

Part I:

You must select five key arguments that the author puts forth.

- These may be explicit or implicit. The arguments should be chosen from throughout the entire book.
- For each argument discussed, select what you consider to be the key evidence (proof) to support this view. Quote no more than four lines for each argument.
- Comment on how this evidence supports the argument. What language or technique makes the text effective? What rhetorical strategies are used? How do the author’s choices create the argument and what is the significance of these choices?

Part II:

Analyze the author’s style.

- Which mode(s) does the author use? What techniques make the work unique? How does the author convey his or her attitude? How does the author develop tone?
- Choose one of the five specific arguments and decide whether you would defend, refute, or qualify the view. Support your own argument with evidence from the text and any other documented source (using an outside source is optional).

Part III:

Create a rhetorical analysis prompt and answer it.

- Choose one page of text from your work that is indicative of the author’s style. Choose a piece in which the author creates significant arguments, uses strong rhetorical technique, or employs rich language.
- Design a text analysis question, noting what you are specifically looking for.
- Then, answer this question. You should show how the author uses rhetorical strategies to convey some particular argument or effect of your choosing. Refer to your portfolio for prompts or see me for more samples.

Title

*A Natural History of the Senses**
*How to Read a Book**
*Open**
Eichmann in Jerusalem°*
*In Cold Blood**
*Silent Spring**
*Wild Swans**
Democracy in America °
Guns, Germs, and Steel
*Slouching Towards Bethlehem**
*The Souls of Black Folk**
*Nickel and Dimed**
Sexing the Body °
A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again
*A Million Little Pieces**
*Complications**
*Blink**
We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow [...]
*On Intelligence**
*Gödel, Escher, Bach**
*Confederates in the Attic**
The Death and Life of Great American Cities°
*Beauty Junkies**
*The Devil in the White City**
*Liar's Poker**
*The Autobiography of Malcolm X**
*Born to Run**
The Omnivore's Dilemma °*
Fraud
*The Language Police**
*Palestine**
*Safe Area Gorazde**
*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat**
*The Demon-Haunted World**
*Fast Food Nation**
Me Talk Pretty One Day
And the Band Played On °*
*Animal Liberation**
Assassination Vacation
Expletive Deleted
The Professor and the Madman
The Beauty Myth
*The Right Stuff**

Author

Ackerman, Diane
Adler, Mortimer
Agassi, Andre
Arendt, Hannah
Capote, Truman
Carson, Rachel
Chang, Jung
de Toqueville, Alexis
Diamond, Jared
Didion, Joan
Dubois, W. E. B.
Ehrenreich, Barbara
Fausto-Sterling, Anne
Foster Wallace, David
Frey, James
Gawande, Atul
Gladwell, Malcolm
Gourevitch, Philip
Hawkins, Jeff and Blakeslee, Sandra
Hofstadter, Douglas R.
Horowitz, Tony
Jacobs, Jane
Kuczyński, Alex
Larson, Erik
Lewis, Michael
Malcolm X and Alex Haley
McDougall, Christopher
Pollan, Michael
Rakoff, David
Ravitch, Diane
Sacco, Joe
Sacco, Joe
Sacks, Oliver
Sagan, Carl
Schlosser, Eric
Sedaris, David
Shilts, Randy
Singer, Peter
Vowell, Sarah
Wajnryb, Diane
Winchester, Simon
Wolf, Naomi
Wolfe, Tom

* there is at least one class copy of this book

° due to length or level of language, may be difficult for some to read